

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims.

--16. The measuring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an impact bar for hitting the front end of the input bar.

17. The measuring apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the specimen includes a viscoelastic material having a viscoelastic characteristic that a maximum strain speed generated at the specimen is 500-8000 per second, when the front end of the input bar is hit with the impact bar at an impact speed of 1m/s – 70m/s.

18. The measuring apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus measures the strain generated at the specimen when it deforms in a relatively large amount and at a relatively high speed.

19. The method according to claim 9, wherein the maximum strain speed generated at the specimen is 500-8000 per second, when the front end of the input bar is hit with a impact bar.

20. The method of claim 9, wherein the viscoelastic characteristic value for the specimen is computed when the specimen deforms in a relatively large amount at a relative high speed.

21. The measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specimen has a characteristic maximum strain deformation amount in the range from 1% to 30%.

22. The method according to claim 9, wherein the specimen has a characteristic maximum strain deformation amount in the range from 1% to 30%.--